

ABSTRACT

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PACKET COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

10 A digital subscriber line (DSL) arrangement provides data and voice over IP
(VoIP) services over a subscriber loop. Instead of conventional multiplexing at
the IP layer, two separate IP packet streams are provided, one stream carrying
delay insensitive data traffic and the other transporting delay sensitive traffic, in
particular, packetised voice. The system segments each IP stream (i.e. those
carrying voice and data) separately to produce two ATM streams which are then
multiplexed using an ATM multiplexer. This reduces the delays to voice traffic
15 resulting from queuing behind long data packets.

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